
215.60

Nutrition Risk Criteria

Overview

Policy Nutrition risk is one of the three eligibility requirements. Each participant must have at least one documented nutrition risk for each certification period.

Data sources Nutrition risks may be based on:

- Anthropometric data
- Bloodwork and other biochemical data
- Medical history
- Diet history.

Qualifying risks The qualifying nutrition risk criteria are consistent with the national risk criteria.

Additional assessment needed The additional assessment check box should be marked on the nutrition risk panel, if a CPA determines that follow-up should occur with the participant. Typically, the participant would be scheduled for a follow-up appointment the following month.

Monitoring for follow-up The Follow-up Nutrition Risk Assessment report should be used to monitor if high-risk participants or other participants needing additional assessment were seen by a RD or RN. The report indicates those marked as high risk or needing additional assessment.

Monitoring the use of risk codes The use of nutrition risk codes is monitored through chart audits and data system reports. This information is also used for nutrition education needs assessment.

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Types of Nutrition Risk

Two types of nutrition risk

Nutrition risks can be divided into two types:

- Medical nutrition risks, and
 - Dietary risks.
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Medical nutrition risks

Medical nutrition risks include:

- Detrimental or abnormal nutritional conditions detectable by biochemical or anthropometric measurements
 - Other documented nutritionally related medical conditions, and
 - Conditions that predispose persons to inadequate nutritional patterns or nutritionally related medical conditions.
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Dietary risks

Dietary risks include:

- Dietary deficiencies that impair or endanger health, and
 - Feeding practices with health or nutrition implications.
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Priority classes

The type of nutrition risk determines a participant's priority class.

- Participants with medical nutrition risks are considered to be more at risk so are assigned to higher priority classes (I, II, and III).
- Participants with dietary risks are considered to be at lower risk so are assigned to lower priority classes (IV, V, and VI).

Note: In times of limited or restricted funding, participants with only dietary risks may be placed on a waiting list. See Policy 300.35 for more information about waiting lists.

High risk resolved

During a health update appointment risk determination, the CPA may determine that a participant may still have a particular risk and need to be monitored but they are no longer considered high risk. The high risk resolved checkbox allows the CPA to indicate that the high risk status of the WIC participant has been resolved allowing for the indicator to be removed.

Related policies

Refer to the following policies for related information:

- Policy 215.61, Nutrition Risk Definitions
 - Policy 215.62, High-Risk Conditions.
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Using Regression as a Nutrition Risk

Policy

A participant may be certified in the absence of any risk condition if the Competent Professional Authority is concerned about the possibility of regression in nutritional status without supplemental foods. This is allowed to avoid the “revolving door” syndrome in which participants get worse after short-term improvement during program participation. Regression may be used more than once during the time an individual participates in WIC as long as it is not used for consecutive time periods.

Policy reference: Miscellaneous Rule, September 27, 2006

Definition of regression

Regression is defined as a possible decline in nutritional status related to a nutrition risk criterion from which the participant is newly recovered. Examples of nutrition risk criteria include:

- Anemia indicators,
- Weight-for-height status,
- Growth patterns, and
- Dietary inadequacies.

Conditions for using regression

Regression may be used as a nutrition risk for:

- Priority I and IV breastfeeding women,
- Priority I and IV infants (see note below),
- Priority III and V children, and
- Priority VI postpartum women.

Note: There is only one situation where regression may be used as a nutrition risk for an infant. If an infant was certified as a Priority I participant for six months (instead of until the first birthday), regression could be used to certify the infant as a Priority IV participant at the next certification.

Conditions precluding use of regression

Regression cannot be used:

- At an initial certification, or
- When there are individuals of a higher priority class waiting for program benefits.

Regression cannot be used for:

- An infant previously on the program as a Priority II infant, or
- A Priority II breastfeeding mother, unless her diet history identified a dietary risk at the previous certification.

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Using Regression as a Nutrition Risk, Continued

Procedure

The Competent Professional Authority must follow the steps below to certify a participant on the basis of possible regression.

Step	Action
1	Review the completed nutrition interview history to rule out the existence of current risk factors.
2	Manually assign the risk for regression.
3	Generate a nutrition care plan and identify the risk factor to which the participant may regress.

Risks and Certification End Date (CED)

Risk records and CED

When the determine risk button is clicked, the data system evaluates the participant status and CED to determine if the risk record is associated with a current or future certification.

If ...	Then ...
Today is after the participant's CED and the WIC status is pending	The new risk record will be associated with the new certification record that transitions the participant to an active status.
A participant's WIC status is active	The certification end date is evaluated.
Today is no more than 30 days before the most recent CED; the data system displays the message: "Do you want to associate this risk with the certification that ends within 30 days?"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The system gives the user the option of associating this risk record with the current certification (if the user answers yes) or with a new certification (if the user answers no). • If yes, the risk record will not be used for the recertification being completed and no risks will be assigned. Due to this the recertification will not have any risks and cannot be completed. • If no, the risk record will be assigned to the recertification being completed.
Today is more than 30 days before the CED	The risk record is associated with the current certification record.

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